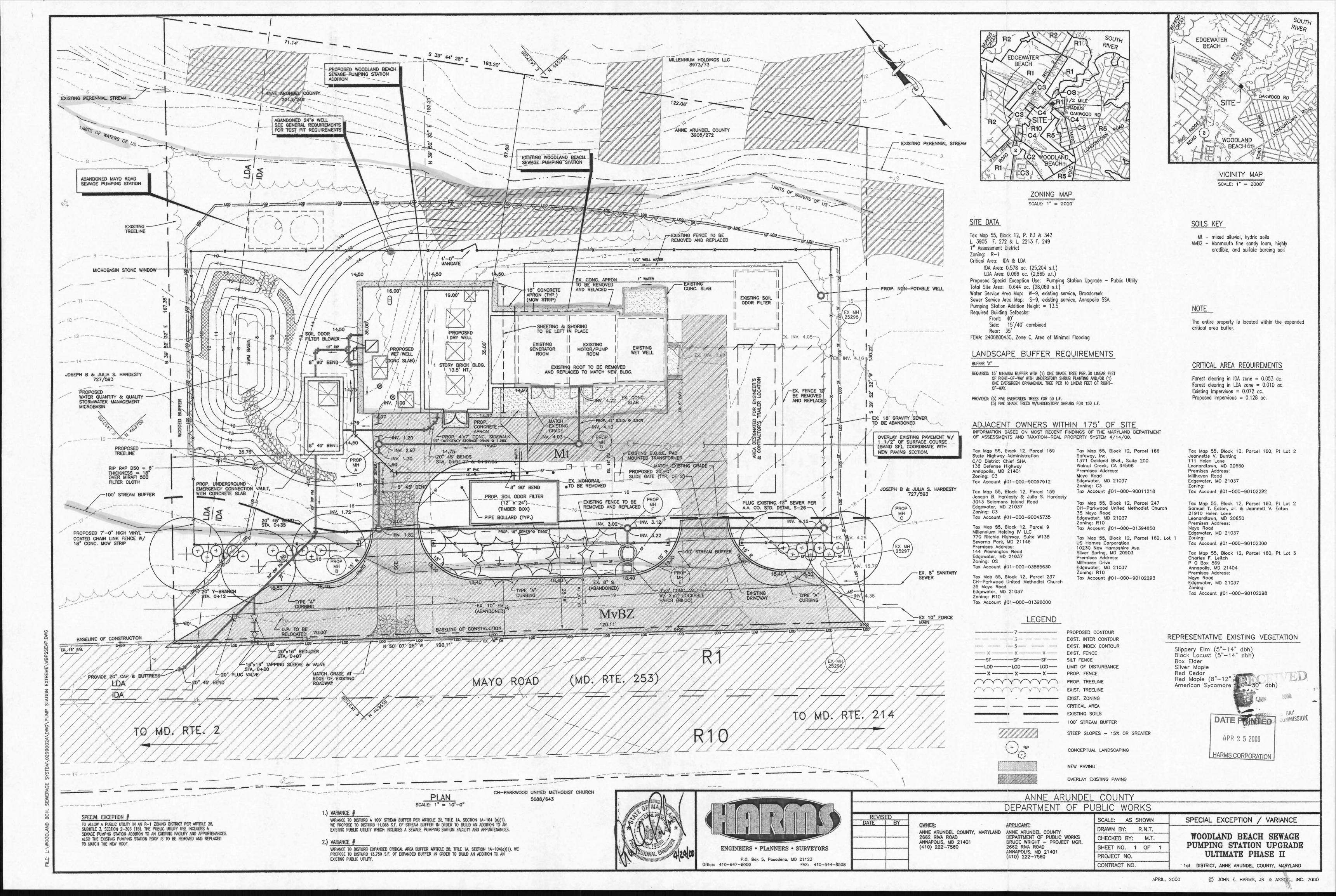
10% calculations

Nccol



Judge John C. North, II Chairman



Ren Serey
Executive Director

STATE OF MARYLAND CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338

August 28, 2000

Ms. Charlene Morgan Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement 2664 Riva Road, MS 6301 Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Special Exception 2000-0216-S and Variance 2000-0217-V, Anne Arundel County

Dear Ms. Morgan:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced special exception and variance. The applicant, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, is requesting a special exception to permit modifications to an existing public utility and a variance to permit a public utility with less setbacks and Buffer than required. The property has a split designation of LDA/IDA, with the majority of the area being IDA.

The entirety of the 0.644 acre property is located within the expanded Buffer to a tributary stream. The tributary stream flows into Warehouse Creek, a tributary to the South River. The proposal includes significant expansion to the existing pumping station, additional paving along Mayo Road and construction of a stormwater management facility. Optimally, the pumping station would be moved to a location outside of any sensitive areas. This particular tributary stream has recently been disrupted by a drain pipe installation project under Washington Avenue. Another stream feeding to Warehouse Creek was disrupted in the recent past for drainage improvement from the large townhouse community being constructed across Mayo Road. The planned improvements to Route 2 also includes a large stormwater facility which will outfall into Warehouse Creek. This office is concerned that further impact to this area will exacerbate existing sedimentation and water quality problems in the Creek.

Notwithstanding the above, it seems that relocating the pumping station would be prohibitively expensive and impractical. We do not oppose the variance requested, but we remain concerned about the impacts to the stream on site. We recommend that the limits of disturbance be kept as close to the proposed fence behind the pumping station as possible. It is not clear why it is necessary to clear in the area of steep slopes directly behind the building. Existing vegetation should be avoided and it should be supplemented with additional plantings where possible. Ideally, the remaining area between the fence and the stream should be heavily planted with trees and shrubs such that some Buffer functions remain.

Branch Office: 31 Creamery Lane, Easton, MD 21601 (410) 822-9047 Fax: (410) 820-5093 Ms. Charlene Morgan August 28, 2000 Page 2

With regard to stormwater management, the 10% pollutant reduction calculations were reviewed and it appears that the proposed stormwater management pond will fulfill this requirement.

This office recommends mitigation at a 3:1 ratio for all new disturbance within the Buffer. The proposed "conceptual landscaping" may contribute to this requirement, provided native species are used. As stated previously, as much as existing vegetation as possible should be retained and the area between the fence and the stream should be heavily vegetated.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please include this letter in your file and submit it as part of the record for this variance. Also, please notify the Commission in writing of the decision made in this case.

Sincerely,

All Anne Chandler
Lee Anne Chandler

Natural Resources Planner

cc: AA320-00

	IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEA	ARINGS
	CASE NUMBERS 2000-0216-S AND 2000-0)217-V
	IN RE: ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARY	/LAND
	FIRST ASSESSMENT DISTRICT	RECEIVED
·	DATE HEARD: AUGUST 29, 2000	SEP 11 2000 CHESAPEAKE BAY > CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION
ORDERED BY: ST	FEPHEN M. LeGENDRE, ADMINISTRATIV	/E HEARING OFFICER
_	ZONING ANALYST: PATRICIA A. MII	LEY
	DATE FILED: SEPTEMBER 20	000

PLEADINGS

Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the applicant, seeks a special exception (2000-0216-S) to permit modifications to an existing public utility and a variance (2000-0217-V) to a permit public utility with less setbacks and buffer than required on property located along the northeast side of Mayo Road, northwest of Washington Road, Edgewater.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The case was advertised in accordance with the County Code. The file contains the certification of mailing to community associations and interested persons. Each person designated in the application as owning land that is located within 175' of the property was notified by mail, sent to the address furnished with the application. Bruce Wright, a project manager for the County's Department of Public Works, testified that the property was posted for more than 14 days prior to the hearing. I find and conclude that the requirements of public notice have been satisfied.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This case concerns the County's Woodland Beach Sewage Pumping Station, which is sited on 0.644 acres of land identified as Tax Map 55, Block 12, Parcels 83 and 342. The zoning is R-1 residential. The property is located in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is largely designated Intensely Developed Area

with the remainder Limited Development Area. The applicant seeks to expand the station with disturbance to a perennial stream buffer, the expanded buffer and steep slopes within the expanded buffer.

A public utility is a special exception use subject to the specific criteria in Anne Arundel County Code, Article 28, Section 12-236 and the general criteria in Section 12-104. Section 1A-104(a)(1) establishes a minimum 100-foot buffer from tributary streams. The buffer expands to include all land within 50 feet of the top of contiguous steep slopes. Accordingly, in addition to the special exception, the proposal necessitates variances to disturb the stream buffer, the expanded buffer and steep slopes within the expanded buffer.

Patricia A. Miley, a zoning analyst with the Office of Planning and Zoning, testified that the Mayo area is subject to a wastewater moratorium with no current service available despite the designation in the Water and Sewer Master Plan as Planned Service Area. The project will alleviate the moratorium to undeveloped buildable properties and also provide capacity in the event of residential septic system failures. The witness observed that it would be impractical and expensive to relocate the pumping station elsewhere. Nevertheless, she expressed concern about the environmental sensitivity of the site. In particular, the stream is the subject of a future restoration project. By way of conclusion, she supported the application, subject to consolidation of the parcels, containment of the limits of disturbance, mitigation, afforestation, and coordination with the stream stabilization project.

Mr. Wright testified that the proposal will increase the capacity of the pumping station from 2.52 million gallons per day to 4.2 million gallons per day. The expansion is recognized by the County's sewer Master Plan. The witness described the sequence of construction. Among other aspects, the proposal incorporates onsite stormwater management for both water quality and quantity. Concerning the specific criteria, Mr. Wright testified that the proposal does not include any of the prohibited activities. The architectural design will be compatible with the existing construction and includes an enhancement of a hipped roof. The surrounding properties are largely commercial. Concerning the general criteria, Mr. Wright testified that the use will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare. The witness testified that the project has been coordinated with a citizen's advisory group, which has endorsed the building elevations.

Steve Zahn, a consulting engineer to the applicant, testified that the proposal satisfies the performance standards specified in the code. There will be no vibration from the pumps because they are located 20 feet below ground. The only noise emanating from the operations will result from the exercising of an emergency generator. The generator is located indoors and is fitted with a silencer. The facility will produce neither glare nor heat; nor any impermissible discharge; there will be no outside storage. The facility will be landscaped in accordance with the County's Landscape Manual and kept in a neat, clean and orderly fashion.

Peter Quirk, an area resident, expressed concern about the potential impacts to Warehouse Creek from this project and the ensuing development of buildable properties. He also suggested that the facility should be relocated; or in the alternative receive additional consideration in light of the stream restoration project.

By way of rebuttal, Mr. Wright testified that the planned stormwater management pond will control runoff from the site. The project also incorporates emergency sewage storage capacity as required by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Upon review of the facts and circumstances, I find and conclude that the applicant has met its burden of proof such that the special exception shall be approved. Considering the specific criteria, the pumping station is related to the County's utility system. The use does not include any of the prohibited activities. The architectural scale, design and landscaping treatment blend harmoniously with development in the area. The use conforms to the performance standards set forth in the code. It is necessary for public convenience at the designated location and cannot practically be supplied with equal public convenience elsewhere. It is enclosed so as to be compatible with the surrounding development. There was nothing to suggest that the use endangers the health or safety of workers or residents in the community, impairs neighboring properties or creates a nuisance. Concerning the general criteria, the use will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare; the location, nature, and height of the improvements

and extent of landscaping will be compatible with the appropriate and orderly development of the district; operations related to the use will be no more objectionable than operations in permitted uses; there is no conflict with existing or programmed public facilities; utility service is available and adequate to service the proposed use with suitable access; the proposal will not overburden the master planned facilities for development of the surrounding areas; the use has received the written recommendations and comments of the public agencies; and there is sufficient evidence of public need.

Considering the variances, for this Critical Area property, due to the unique features of the stream, expanded buffer and steep slopes, a strict implementation of the program would result in an unwarranted hardship. To literally interpret the program will deprive the applicant of the ability to expand the existing pumping station. I do not believe that the granting of the variance confers any special privilege that the program typically denies. There was nothing to suggest that the request results from the actions of the applicant; nor does it arise from land use on neighboring property. Finally, with appropriate conditions and mitigation, the granting of the variance will not adversely affect water quality or adversely impact fish, wildlife or plant habitat and will be in harmony with the general spirit and intent of the program. I further find that the variances are the minimum relief. As noted, the applicant is providing stormwater management for quality and quantity. There was nothing to suggest that the granting of the variance will alter the essential character of the neighborhood, substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, or be detrimental to the public welfare. The approval is subject to the conditions in the Order.

ORDER

PURSUANT to the application of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, petitioning for a special exception to permit modifications of an existing public utility and a variance to permit a public utility with less setbacks and buffer; and

PURSUANT to the advertising, posting of the property, and public hearing and in accordance with the provisions of law, it is this ______day of September, 2000,

ORDERED, by the Administrative Hearing Officer of Anne Arundel County, that the applicant is hereby **granted** a special exception to permit modifications of a public utility in accordance with the site plan.

FURTHER ORDERED, that the applicant is **granted** a variance to permit a public utility with impacts to the tributary stream buffer, the expanded buffer and steep slopes in accordance with the site plan.

The foregoing approvals are subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The parcels shall be consolidated at the time of building permit.
- 2. The limits of disturbance shall be as close to the proposed fence behind the pumping station as possible.
- 3. The applicant shall provide mitigation at a 3:1 ratio for all new disturbance within the buffer.

- 4. The applicant shall retain as much existing vegetation as possible and afforest the area between the fence and the steam.
- 5. The applicant shall coordinate with the stream stabilization project as required by the Development Division's Environmental Section.

Stephen M. LeGendre

Administrative Hearing Officer

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Decision, any person, firm, corporation, or governmental agency having an interest therein and aggrieved thereby may file a Notice of Appeal with the County Board of Appeals.

Further, Section 12-107(a) states:

Approval of a special exception is rescinded by operation of law if

- (1) action to implement the use is not begun within one year; and
- (2) the use is not completed and in operation within two years.

Further, Section 11-102.2 of the Anne Arundel County Code states:

A variance granted under the provisions of this Article shall become void unless a building permit conforming to the plans for which the variance was granted is obtained within one year of the grant and construction is completed within two years of the grant.

If this case is not appealed, exhibits must be claimed within 60 days of the date of this order, otherwise they will be discarded.